

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 ERDA-07 DODE-00 FEA-01 ACDA-10

CEQ-01 CIAE-00 DOTE-00 EPA-04 HEW-06 HUD-02 INR-07

INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-02 OIC-02 PA-02 PM-04

PRS-01 SAJ-01 OES-05 SP-02 SS-15 TRSE-00 USIA-15 /123 W

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3594

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TAGS: ETDA, CCMS, ENRG, TECH, MX

SUBJECT: SOLAR ENERGY

REF: STATE 43803

1. SCICOUNS BRIEFED REPRESENTATIVES OF NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (CONACYT), SUBSECRETARIAT FOR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT (SMA), THE NATIONAL AUTONOMOUS UNIVERSITY OF MEXICO (UNAM) AND THE NATIONAL POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE (IPN) ON CCMS SOLAR ENERGY PILOT STUDY. COPY OF THE SOLAR MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING AND REPORT OF PALO ALTO CCMS SOLAR ENERGY EXPERTS MEETING WAS GIVEN CONACYT DIRECTOR GENERAL BUENO.

2. AFOREMENTIONED GROUPS ALSO BRIEFED SCICOUNS AND VISITING MEMBERS OF EL PASO SOLAR ENERGY TASK GROUP ON MEXICAN SOLAR PROGRAMS.

3. RESPONSIBILITY FOR SOLAR ENERGY RESEARCH IN MEXICO IS NOT FOCUSED IN ANY ONE AGENCY. CONACYT, THROUGH ITS ADVISORY AND FUNDING RESPONSIBILITIES DOES MAINTAIN COGNIZANCE OF MUCH OF SOLAR RESEARCH IN COUNTRY HOWEVER. DIRECTOR GENERAL IS GERARDO BUENO-ZIRION AND TECHNICAL DIRECTOR IS MANUEL PUEBLA.

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4. SMA HAS LARGE PROGRAM TO DEVELOP SOLAR PUMPS FOR USE IN ARID REGIONS. UNDERSECRETARY FOR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT IS FRANCISCO VIZCAINO-MURRAY, PRESIDENT OF TECHNICAL COUNCIL IS DR. EDUARDO ECHEVERRIA-ALVAREZ, AND DIRECTOR OF SOLAR ENERGY PROJECT IS ING. ANTONIO MURRAY. SMA CURRENTLY HAS NINE 1 KW SOLAR PUMPS IN USE OR UNDER CONSTRUCTION IN FOLLOWING LOCATIONS: SAN LUIS POTOSI STATE; EJIDO BAHIA, CABORCA, SONORA; CEBALLOS, DURANGO; MEXICALI, BAJA CALIFORNIA; LA CRUZ, CHIHUAHUA; CAMPECHE STATE; MEXICO STATE; LA PAZ, BAJA CALIFORNIA; AND ZACATECAS STATE.

A 25 KW SOLAR PUMP (TURBINE TYPE) WENT INTO OPERATION LAST SEPTEMBER IN SAN LUIS DE LA PAZ, GUANAJUATO. ALL OF THE MEXICAN SOLAR PUMPS ARE OF FRENCH MANUFACTURE (SOFRETES). THE 1 KW PUMPS HAVE COLLECTORS OF 70 M2 AREA AND PUMP ABOUT 50,000 LITERS WATER PER DAY FROM DEPTHS OF 40-60 METERS. THE 25 KW SYSTEM HAS 1200 M2 COLLECTORS. SMA IS REQUESTING ADMINISTRATION SUPPORT FOR A LONG RANGE PROGRAM TO BUILD 1,000 1 KW PLANTS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY AND TWO 50 KW PLANTS. IT IS UNLIKELY, HOWEVER, THAT SO AMBITIOUS A PROGRAM WILL BE APPROVED AT THIS TIME.

5. COMMISSION FOR THE UTILIZATION OF SALINE WATER UNDER VICE ADMIRAL DR RAFAEL VARGAS-SALAZAR IS DEVELOPING WIDE VARIETY OF WATER DESALTING TECHNIQUES, INCLUDING SOLAR DISTILLATION. LARGE NUMBER OF SOLAR STILLs ARE BEING DISTRIBUTED TO COASTAL VILLAGES IN ARID ZONES IN ORDER TO SUPPLY DRINKING WATER TO THE AREAS.

6. THE CENTER OF INVESTIGATION AND ADVANCED STUDIES OF IPN, DIRECTED BY DR GUILLERMO MASSIEU-HELGUERA, IS CARRYING OUT, IN ITS PHYSICS AND ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENTS, PROGRAM ON SOLAR CELL DEVELOPMENT.

7. UNAM HAS A DEPARTMENT OF TECHNOLOGY OF MATERIALS AND SOLAR ENERGY, WHERE RESEARCH ON SOLAR CELLS IS ALSO BEING CARRIED OUT BY A GROUP UNDER DR MAYER. AT UNAM'S INSTITUTE OF GEOPHYSICS (DIRECTOR, DR JULIAN ADEM), DR IGNACIO GALINDO HEADS SOLAR RADIATION RESEARCH GROUP.

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